

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 NASA-01 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 DLOS-03 /120 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 712

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH USSR

1. US AND SOVIET DELS MET JUNE 10 AM TO DISCUSS WORK OF  
OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE AND RELATED ITEMS OF COMMON INTEREST.  
SOVIET DEL ALSO ELABORATED ON USSR GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT  
MADE IN COMMITTEE JUNE 9.

2. MOON TREATY: SOVIETS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FURTHER  
PROGRESS COULD BE MADE DURING THIS SESSION ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES ARTICLES, AND ASKED FOR MORE ACTIVE USG  
ASSISTANCE IN PERUSADING OTHER DELS TO ADOPT ACCEPTABLE  
LANGUAGE. SOVIET REP MAIORSKY STATED THEY FELT RESENTMENT  
AT BEING IDENTIFIED AS ONLY DEL INTERESTED IN ADOPTION OF  
MOON TREATY AND ASKED IF US WOULD BE WILL ING TO ENGAGE IN  
FURTHER NEOGTIATIONS DURING COMMITTEE MEETING. US DEL  
EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER DRAFTING  
ATTEMPTS, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF LDCS WOULD BE  
WILL ING TO DROP THEIR INSISTENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCE  
EXPLOITATION RESTRICTIONS BEFORE LOS TREATY FORMULA  
WERE AGREED. IF SOVS HAD INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY,  
WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN BEING INFORMED. MAIORSKY  
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STATED ONLY THAT THEY WERE CONSULTING WITH OTHERS AND

THAT EFFORT WOULD BE ENHANCED IF SUG WOULD DO THE SAME.

3. DIRECT BROADCASTING: SOVIETS "RECOGNIZED" DIFFICULTIES USG WAS HAVING WITH DRAFT PRINCIPLES, AND DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT THAN NECESSARY, AND HENCE HAVE NO PLANS FOR ANY "DRAMATIC" ACTIONS. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD BE FULLY PREPARED TO CONTINUE DRAFTING EXERCISE DURING THIS COMMITTEE SESSION. SOVIETS WERE QUITE CONFIDENT OF GROWING MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THEIR VIEWS ON DBS, AND RECALLED UNGA VOTE REQUESTING OSC TO WORK OUT PRINCIPLES. US DEL SAID DIFFERENCES WERE STILL BASIC AND THAT WE SAW LITTLE UTILITY IN REEXAMINING SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE DURING THIS SESSION.

4. REMOTE SENSING: SOVIETS HINTED AT CONSULTATIONS WITH LATINS AND FRENCH ON A COMPROMISE TEXT, AND RECOGNIZED THAT US AND SOVIETS SHOULD CONSULT ON THE DEFINITIONAL QUESTION WHICH THEY NOW RECOGNIZED TO HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE. ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED WE MUST MAKE HASTE SLOWLY ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ANY INTERNATIONAL REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS, THEY ARGUED THAT RAPID PROGRESS ON THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO REMOVE THE ITEM FROM ACTIVE DEBATE BEFORE STILL OTHER, AND WORSE, DEMANDS WERE LEVIED BY NON-SPACE POWERS.

5. DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE: SOVIETS AGAIN STRONGLY URGED US TO TAKE A LOOK AT QUESTION OF DEFINITION, AND SAID ACTIVE DEBATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS NOW INEVITABLE. THEY REITERATED DESIRE TO REACH US-USSR AGREEMENT ON APPROACH SOON BECAUSE OUR MANY BASIC, COMMON INTERESTS IN THIS AREA WOULD BE UNDERMINED BY PUBLIC DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN US. THEY SUGGESTED IN COMMITTEE STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN S&T SUBCOMMITTEE EXPERT OPINION ON THE DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE.

6. REGISTRATION CONVENTION: SOVIET DEL RESPONDED TO US INQUIRY BY STATING THEY WERE MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD SIGNING, BUT THERE WERE MANY OFFICES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULT IN SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND PROCESS HAD BECOME SOMEWHAT STRUNG OUT.

7. INTERNATIONAL SPACE AGENCY: SOVIETS SUGGESTED THEY COULD SUPPORT CREATION OF SUCH A CENTRALIZED AGENCY AND ASKED USG TO GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

8. UN CONFERENCE ON SPACE: BECAUSE OF PROLIFERATION

OF UN CONFERENCES AND ABSENCE OF CLEAR AND USEFUL PURPOSE  
FOR SEPARATE SPACE CONFERENCE, SOVIETS AGREE WITH USG  
THAT IT SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH ALREADY PLANNED  
UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

9. COMMENT: THESE BILATERALS WERE THE MOST CANDID  
AND THOROUGH PRESENTATION BY THE SOVIETS ON SPACE  
MATTERS IN MEMORY OF THOSE PRESENT ON US SIDE. THE  
SOVS OBVIOUSLY WERE INTERESTED IN TRYING TO WORK OUT  
DIFFERENCES ON A BILATERAL BASIS RATHER THAN IN PUBLIC  
COMMITTEE DEBATES. THEY AGAIN REQUESTED THAT WE MEET  
EARLY IN THE YEAR, REGARDLESS OF WHERE, TO DISCUSS  
OUTSTANDING ISSUES, SUCH AS DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE,  
AND WILL BE GIVING US A LIST OF SPECIFIC TOPICS THEY  
WISH TO ADDRESS. WE WILL BE MEETING WITH THEM AGAIN AT  
THE END OF THIS WEEK OR THE BEGINNING OF NEXT. END  
COMMENT.  
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